

CHAOS!

ON THE EDGE

THE COW



Lady Death

MEDIEVAL LITCHBLADE

#**1**

(of 1)

**AUGUST
2001**

\$3.50

\$5.32
canada



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TOP COW



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Lady Death®

MEDIEVAL WITCHBLADE

CHAOS!

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SHE REMEMBERS THE SEARING HEAT MOST OF ALL--SHE LITERALLY FELT HER FLESH BUBBLE. SHE THOUGHT THAT HELL MUST BE EXACTLY LIKE THAT...

SHE WAS WRONG. HELL, SHE WOULD LEARN, WAS OTHER PEOPLE.

BURN!

BURN
WITCH
BURN!

THE VILLAGERS HAD KILLED HER FATHER, JUSTLY, FOR SORCERY--NOW THEY BURNED HOPE AT THE STAKE FOR THE SAME OFFENSE.

THOUGH INNOCENT, HOPE HAD LEARNED ENOUGH OF HER FATHER'S MAGIC TO TRY AND SAVE HERSELF. THAT WAS HER FIRST MISTAKE.

I ASK
THY GATE
TO OPEN
TO ME!

SHE ESCAPED AS A FUGITIVE IN HELL ITSELF.

HOPE ACCLIMATED, CLAIMED HER HELLISH POWER AND KILLED LUCIFER HIMSELF. HIS DYING BREATH WAS A CURSE JUST FOR HER...

YOU WILL...
NEVER
RETURN TO
EARTH!



AS LADY DEATH, HOPE
BECAME A MAJOR POWER
IN HELL'S HIERARCHY. BUT
THE LORD OF THE UNDER-
WORLD PROVED AS GOOD
AS HIS LAST WORDS...

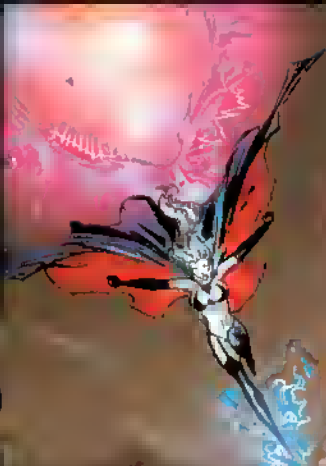
...ALL HOPE OF EVER
SEEING HER HOME
WITHERED AND DIED...
BECOMING AS HARD
AND UNYIELDING AS
THE SHELL SHE FORMED
AROUND HER SELF.

THERE WERE MEANS AT
HER DISPOSAL, THOUGH...
AND MASTERING THEM
MIGHT CHANGE HER
DESTINY. THE NEXUS OF
ALL THINGS, WAS ONE
SUCH MEANS...

...THROUGH IT, ONE
MIGHT TRAVERSE
THE COSMOS AT
WILL. THUS FAR
EARTH REMAINED
ELUSIVE.

THE NEXUS MIGHT ALSO HURL
YOU INTO THE HEART OF AN
EXPLODING STAR - BUT ANY
RISK WAS WORTH IT TO
RECLAIM A SOUL.

THIS TIME, THOUGH,
IT SEEMS AS IF SHE'S
FINALLY MADE IT HOME.



IT IS A PLACE OF DEATH
AND DECAY. NOTHING
STIRS SAVE A LISTLESS
WIND REEKING OF
PUTREFACTION. IS THIS
SOME HORRIFIC
JOKE?

HAS SHE BEEN FINALLY
ALLOWED ACCESS TO
HER HOME ONLY TO
FIND IT ROTTING AND
EMPTY?/ THIS IS NOT
EARTH. IT CAN'T BE!

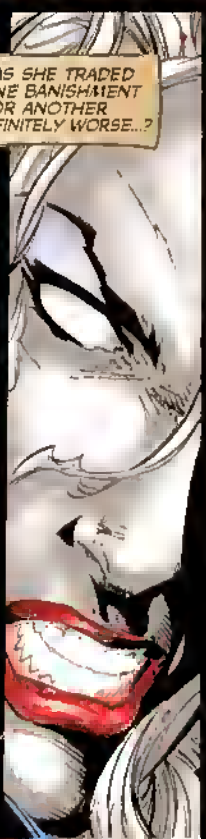
THIS IS SOME AWFUL
MOCKERY--A SHODDY
SIMULACRUM UTTERLY
DEVOID OF THE LIVING
ENERGIES OF THE
GENUINE.

LUDICROUS AS IT
SOUNDS, THIS PLACE
MAKES ONE YEARN
FOR HELL

GATHER
UNTO ME,
NEXUS OF
ALL THINGS,
REMOVE
ME--

HAS SHE TRADED
ONE BANISHMENT
FOR ANOTHER
INFINITELY WORSE...?

-- WHAT?/
THE NEXUS
DOES NOT
RESPOND?!





PLEASE
NO!

PERHAPS THIS DUST
BALL ISN'T EMPTY
AFTER ALL...

SATAN'S
BONES!
WHAT IN THE
WORLD-?!



THIS IS NOT HER
WORLD...NOT HER
FIGHT...BUT LADY
DEATH CAN NOT
STAND IDLY BY..



...CAN NOT WATCH AS
HUNDREDS OF INNOCENTS
ARE HERDED TO A
SULPHUROUS DEATH IN
THAT FIRE PIT!

STOP!



I SAID
STO --

Satan

NEVER HAVE HER
POWERS FAILED HER...

UNNN-I

Who is
this who would
interrupt QUEEN
MOBBIGARR's
sport?

DO
YOU ALWAYS
SPEAK OF
YOURSELF
IN THE THIRD
PERSON?

Ah, I
see -- it is NO
ONE. Dispose of this
insect with the
others, my
knights!

SHAZZAKK

AAHHH!

OHH-?

Other
duties call, finish
these vermin and
report to the
palace...

NO!

IT APPEARS
I HAVE YET
ENOUGH POWER
TO STOP
YOU!

NOW,
JOIN YOUR
VICTIMS...

...PERHAPS
YOU'LL LEARN
SOME *MERCY* --
JUST BEFORE
YOUR HEART
BURSTS!

SHANNING


I AM
NOT AT FULL
STRENGTH, BUT
I WILL FIGHT
YOU WITH EVERY
THING I HAVE
LEFT!

AND I GUARANTEE
THAT MANY
OF YOU WILL
BOIL WITH
ME!



THEY DIE IN SILENCE.


BUT DIE THEY DO.



CHUNK

SLASH

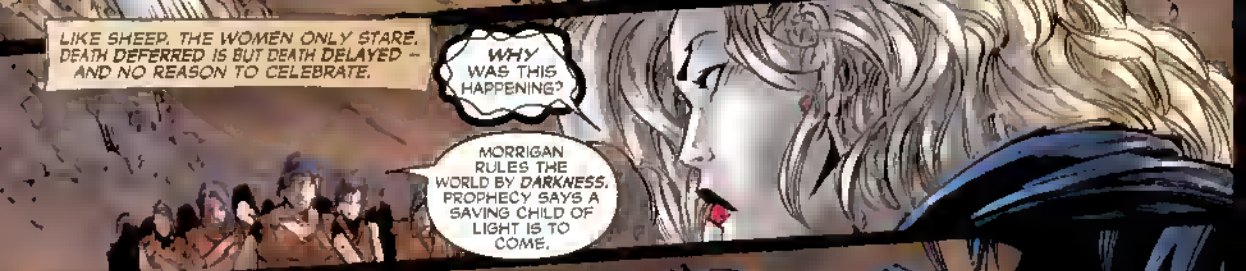
MORE UNNERVING EVEN THAN THEIR SILENCE IS THE COMPLETE DEARTH OF BLOOD. ONLY DUST ISSUES FROM THESE WOUNDS...




LIKE SHEEP, THE WOMEN ONLY STARE. DEATH DEFERRED IS BUT DEATH DELAYED - AND NO REASON TO CELEBRATE.

WHY WAS THIS HAPPENING?

MORRIGAN RULES THE WORLD BY DARKNESS. PROPHECY SAYS A SAVING CHILD OF LIGHT IS TO COME.




SO, KILL ALL CHILDREN AND BE SURE TO GET HIM. DO YOU BELIEVE THE PROPHECY?



HOPE DIES SCREAMING HERE. STILL WE MUST CLING TO SOMETHING...



YOU'RE FREE GO.



IF THIS CHILD OF LIGHT IS REAL, IF HE HAS SUCH POWER, PERHAPS HE CAN HELP LADY DEATH LEAVE THIS FILTHY PLACE... OR MORE...

BEFORE THE
SUN WAS
BLOTTED OUT,
THIS TEMPLE
WAS DEVOTED
TO ITS WORSHIP...

CAREFUL!
THIS OLD PLACE
COULD CRUMBLE
DOWN ON YOUR
POINTY-HEADS IF
YOU SNEEZE!

TELL
US AGAIN
WHY WE ARE
HERE, SISTER
SARA?

DON'T
YOU **FEEL** IT,
BROTHERS? THE
MAGIC IS HERE -
IT CALLS OUT
TO ME!

SOMETHING
HERE HAS THE
POWER TO **END**
MORRIGAN'S
FOUL REIGN!

I HEAR...
SOMETHING.
I THINK IT'S
RATS.

THE
KNIGHTS OF
THE BLACK
CROSS!

NO!

SMASH

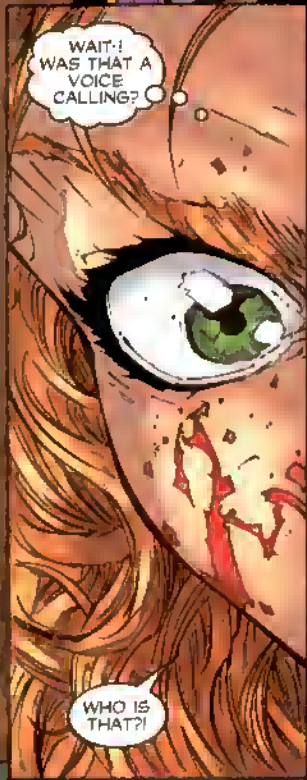
SCHUNK



ONE THOUGHT ECHOES WITH THEIR DYING SCREAMS: SHE BROUGHT THEM HERE AND FAILED TO PROTECT THEM.



HER OWN DEATH THOUGH WOULD BE DOUBLY POINTLESS. WHO THEN WOULD AVENGE THE BROTHERS?



WAIT! WAS THAT A VOICE CALLING?

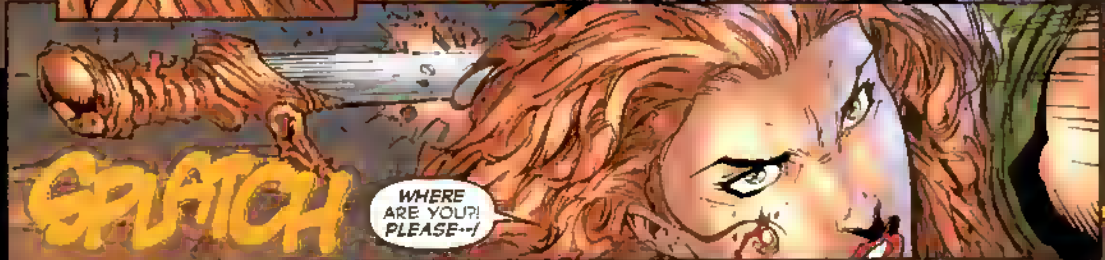
WHO IS THAT?!



WHERE ARE YOU?!



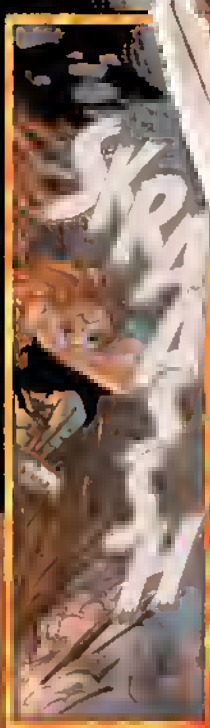
WHOEVER YOU ARE, TALK TO ME... LEAD ME!



WHERE ARE YOU? PLEASE--!



I'M NO USE TO YOU DEAD, AM I?!



YOU'RE
HERE!

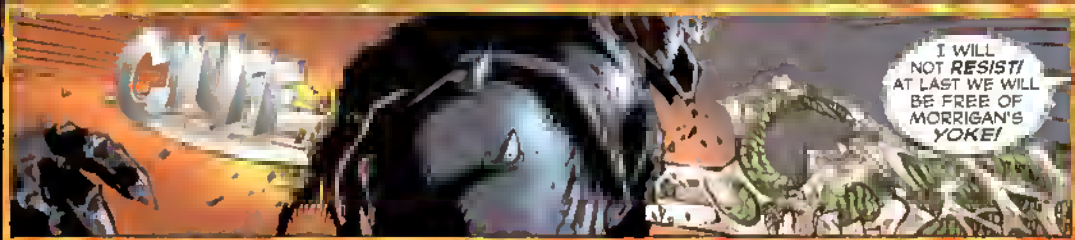


THIS IS
THE TREASURE
I'VE BEEN
CALLED TO.
THIS IS MY
DESTINY!

IT'S
AN ARMORED
GAUNTLET...
AND THE URGE TO
DON IT IS OVER-
WHELMING!



I WILL
NOT RESIST!
THIS IS NOT
DISCOVERY, BUT
REUNION!
SO
STRONG! IT
URGES ME TO KILL!
EMPOWERS ME
TO DESTROY!
SO SWEARS
WITCHBLADE!



I WILL
NOT RESIST!
AT LAST WE WILL
BE FREE OF
MORRIGAN'S
YOKE!

IT IS NOT YET
A NAME TO
INSTILL FEAR.
ALAS...

UFFF!

WUMP

KRANK

EVEN WITH THE
WITCHBLADE, I AM
OUTNUMBERED! I
MUST FIND A WAY
TO EVEN THE
ODDS...

SCHANK

THERE
THAT OUGHT
TO...

...BRING
DOWN THE
HOUSE!


KRASH



I FOUND
MY TREASURE
AND KILLED A
SQUADRON OF
BLACK KNIGHTS.
BUT AT WHAT
COST?

I CAN'T
EVEN GIVE
THE POOR
BROTHERS A
DECENT
BURIAL.

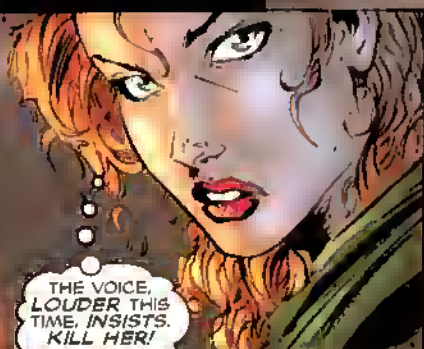
ANYONE
STILL IN THERE
IS BURIED SURELY
ENOUGH...AND
ON SACRED
GROUND...



I HOPE
THAT AT LEAST
SOME OF THOSE
INTERRED WERE
OF THE DEMONIC
KNIGHTS...

WHO IS
THIS PALE,
LETHAL BEAUTY?
A VOICE WHISPERS
THAT SHE IS AN
ENEMY AND
MUST DIE...

BUT,
I...



THE VOICE,
LOUDER THIS
TIME, INSISTS.
KILL HER!

AN
ENEMY TO
THE CAUSE
IS AN ENEMY
OF LIFE!

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT
I...



SKIFFL

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
THIS IS ABOUT,
BUT YOU'LL NOT
FIND ME EASY
PREY!

UHHH--!

SHUMMP

I'VE DONE NOTHING TO MAKE MYSELF YOUR FOE, BUT I AM MORE THAN READY TO RESPOND IN KIND!

OUR WORLD IS CHOKED BY DARKNESS, YOUR VERY ESSENCE DECLARES YOUR ALLEGIANCE..

..YOU ARE AN ENEMY OF THE LIGHT!

AND, WITH THE WITCHBLADE'S MIGHT, I WILL ALWAYS OPPOSE YOUR KIND!

YOU DON'T KNOW ME AT ALL, BUT I WON'T WASTE TIME ARGUING.

MY MAGIC IS HALVED IN THIS CORRUPT ATMOSPHERE, BUT IT'S ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH YOU!

SWAASSH



THE
BLADE... ABSORBS
THE ARCANÉ
ENERGY LIKE A
SPONGE! BUT TO
WHAT END--?!



IT WOULD
APPEAR THAT
OUR MAGICS ARE
IN **BALANCE**.
COMBAT WOULD
BE A WASTE
OF TIME.

SOMETHING
OF WHICH THIS
WORLD HAS NO
SURPLUS.



I **NEVER** SOUGHT
TO FIGHT YOU. I SEEK
ONLY KNOWLEDGE OF
THE CHILD OF
LIGHT.

THEN OUR
GOALS ARE
SIMILAR. WE
COULD JOIN
FORCES...?



A FINE
IDEA. HEAVEN
HELP ANY THAT
GET IN OUR
WAY.

THE VOICE CRIES
OUT TO KILL THE
WOMAN. BUT SARA
IGNORES IT. FOR
NOW.

SOME THERE ARE WHO NEVER IGNORE THEIR EVIL INNER VOICES...

As if I wasn't already overburdened with work—now these two new problems!

Tell me, Grifrid, why, with all my power most I endlessly contend with this pointless resistance?

I am going to prevail, who don't they just give up?

A TRIUMPH OF FANCY OVER REASON? IN ANY CASE, MY QUEEN, THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN'T HANDLE.

Of course not, but one would like things to be... *EASIER* occasionally. Thank you, stepdaughter.

HOW GOOD OF YOU TO CARE FOR LITTLE CLAIRE, LONG AFTER HER FATHER THE KING HAS CEASED TO BE NECESSARY. HEH.

BUT I BET IT IS NEWS OF ANOTHER CHILD ENTIRELY THAT YOU LONG FOR...

...HE LIVES WITHIN THE SHADOW OF THIS CASTLE—IN THE VILLAGE OF DINWIDEN.

Fine. Soon this will all be over. Soon I will remake an entire world in my own dark image.

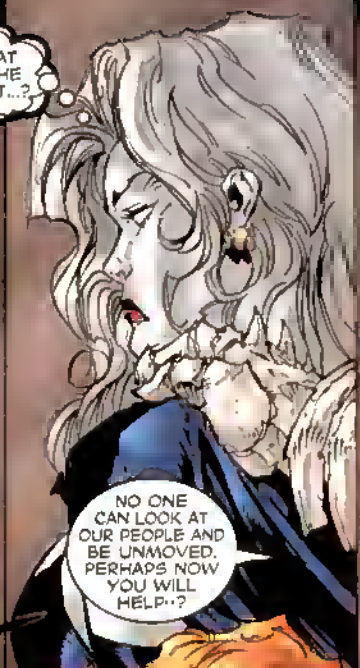
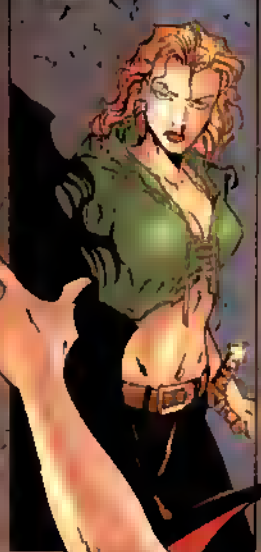
I HAVE USED MY NECROMANCY TO TRACK THE CHILD OF THE PROPHECY. HE HAS JUST BEEN BORN...

HOW
SQUALID ARE
THE LIVES OF
THESE WRETCHED
SOULS. EVEN
THE DOGS OF
HELL LIVE
BETTER.

BUT
WHY FIGHT IT,
IT'S THEIR LOT.
THEY PRAY FOR
REDEMPTION,
BUT IT WON'T
COME...

MY
SUFFERING
IS UNENDING.
THERE IS NO ONE
TO REDEEM
ME...

WHAT
IS THE
POINT...?



NO ONE
CAN LOOK AT
OUR PEOPLE AND
BE UNMOVED.
PERHAPS NOW
YOU WILL
HELP...?

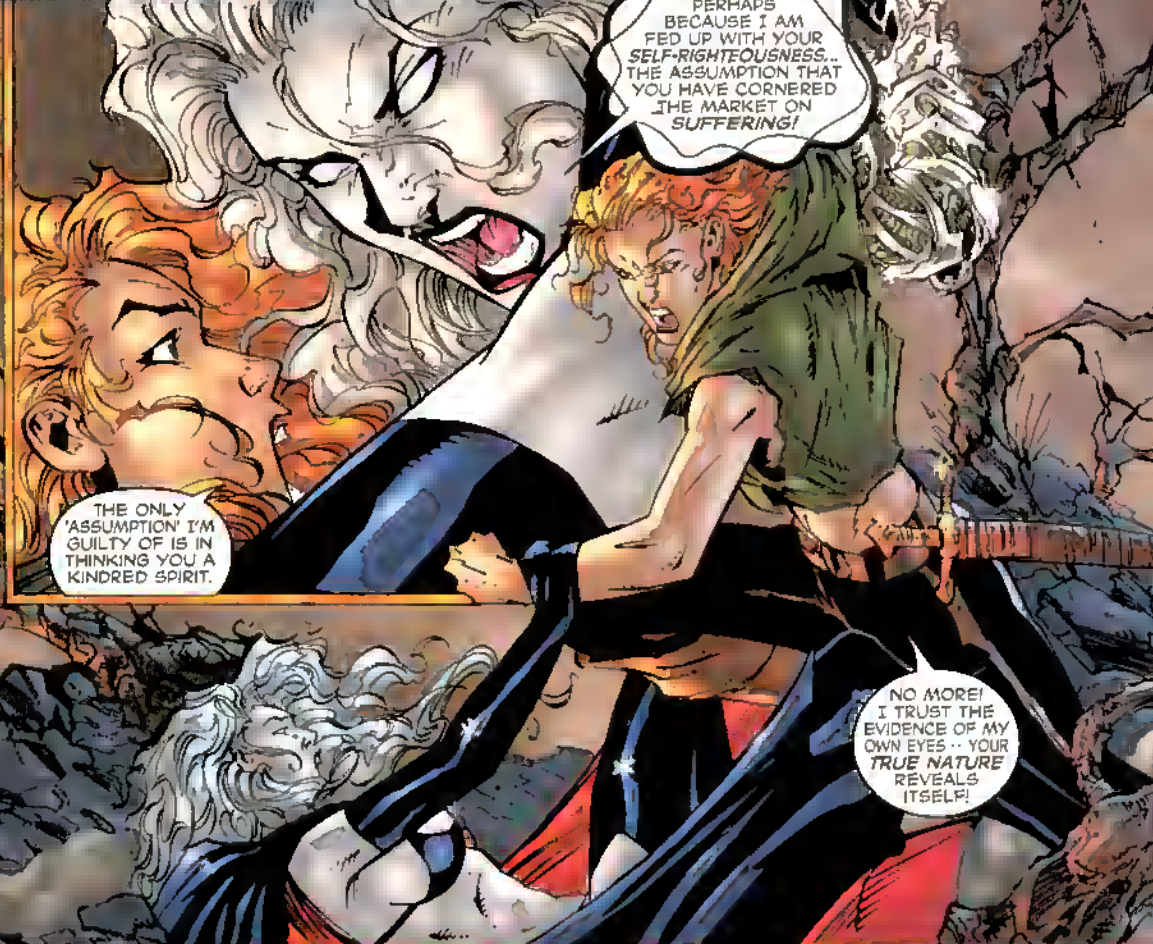
DO NOT
PRESUME TO
KNOW ME, OR
MY THOUGHTS!
GET AWAY!



AHHHH-I



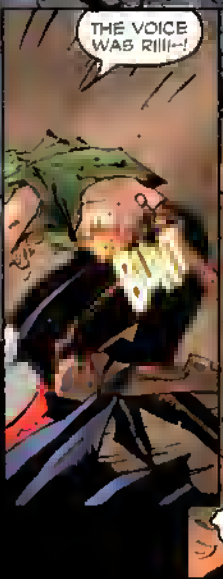
WHY DO YOU DO THIS?!



PERHAPS BECAUSE I AM FED UP WITH YOUR SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS... THE ASSUMPTION THAT YOU HAVE CORNERED THE MARKET ON SUFFERING!

THE ONLY 'ASSUMPTION' I'M GUILTY OF IS IN THINKING YOU A KINDRED SPIRIT.

NO MORE! I TRUST THE EVIDENCE OF MY OWN EYES... YOUR TRUE NATURE REVEALS ITSELF!



THE VOICE WAS RIIL!~!



UH-OH.

OH-HH-?

THIS CAN'T BE GOOD.

IF *THIS* IS HOW
YOU TREAT FRIENDS,
NO WONDER YOU'RE
ALONE MOST OF
THE TIME...

ENOUGH.

My knights,
bring our new
friends to join my
very SPECIAL
guest...

FIRST EXILED TO
HELL, NOW *THIS*. IT
WOULD APPEAR THAT
PAIN AND OPPRESSION
ARE TO *DOG* MY
EVERY STEP.

...YES,
the prophesied
child is at last
here!

WE ON
THIS WORLD
HAVE KNOWN
HELL AND
WORSE!

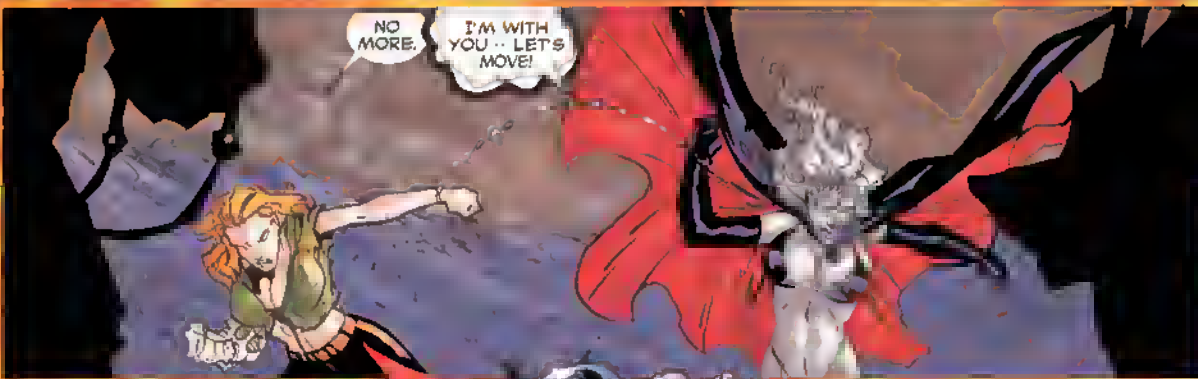
BUT NEITHER OF THEM
ARE PREPARED FOR
WHAT THEY SEE NEXT...

IT IS
DINWIDEN...
IN SMOKING
RUIN!

REGARDLESS
OF THE WORLD,
SOME CRUEL
REALITIES NEVER
CHANGE.

IT IS THIS FUTILE
REALIZATION
MORE THAN THE
REALITY OF THE
CARNAGE THAT
ENFLAMES LADY
DEATH'S PASSION...

WHAT OF
THE PEOPLE?
ARE THEY—?
BY THE
GODS—!



NO MORE.

I'M WITH YOU -- LET'S MOVE!



I WILL NOT BE RESTRAINED ANY LONGER!



SNAP!



NOR
IF I DON'T
KNOW IF THESE
KNIGHTS TRULY
LIVE...

IT
MATTERS
NOT. THEY
DIE JUST
FINE!

TWO ESCAPE --
WE MUST STOP
THEM...!



LET THEM
GO -- THEY
WILL LEAD US
TO MORRIGAN!

THAP LUM THARUM THARUM THARUM



SKRAAAGH

LET'S BRING THIS TO THE QUEEN!

SKRUMMCH



THIS MIGHT BE SUICIDE. MORRIGAN IS VASTLY POWERFUL!

I DON'T SEE YOU TURNING BACK. LET'S GO!

MORE
KNIGHTS!

THEY'RE NO
THREAT - WE
KNOW HOW
EASILY THEY
FALL!

CHUNK

SLASH

THUKK

YOU
ARE FINISHED
MORRIGAN!

On the
contrary, my
dear. I am just
getting
STARTED.

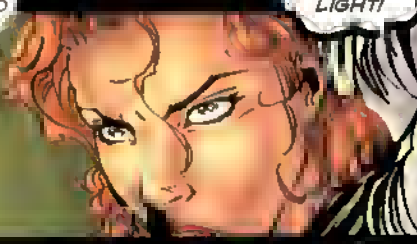
My DARK
POWER grows ever
stronger within my crystal
talisman--and soon it will
be unleashed upon
this world!

THEN will
the DARKNESS
engulf all that is. THEN
will my realm be
SUPREMACY!


And the
prophesied CHILD
dies at my hand
before he can ever
thwart my plans!




THE GIRL!
NEVER HAVE
I SEEN HAIR SO
GOLDEN...




YES... THE
COLOR OF...
LIGHT!



MORRIGAN IS
A FOOL! LOOKING
EVERYWHERE FOR
THAT WHICH WAS
RIGHT NEXT
TO HER!



AND I'LL WAGER THAT
THE PROMISED CHILD
MUST COME TO THE AGE
OF REASON **BEFORE**
COMING INTO **HER** FULL
POWER. IS THAT TRUE,
YOUNG LADY?




YES, MA'AM.
SEVEN. LIKE
ME.



Then
this
child...



...IS
JUST A
CHILD..?



I will
NOT be
thwarted--
not NOW!



Come,
come to
Mummy!



YOU
ARE NOT MY
MOTHER



GET
AWAY FROM
THE
GIRL!

AND
YOU'LL NOT
INTERFERE
WIZARD!

HOW
DARE
YOU?!

I SHOULD
SEND YOU TO
THE DARKNESS
YOU LOVE
SO...

You haven't
the power
witch! Not
here!

I'LL
CONJURE
A PAINFUL
DEATH
FOR—
—URK?

CONJURE
THIS
BONEBAG!

CHURK

CHOOOM

My power is
at its PEAK! I can
act at WILL and my
darkness will sweep
like a black tide
across this world!

With
DARKNESS as
TOTALITY, I will
be a GOD!

THE DARKNESS SPREADS
LIKE SPILLED INK OVER
AN ALREADY GRAY WORLD...

Already
my dark power
SMOTHERS the
planet—and there's
nothing you can
do to stop it!

NOTHING!

PERHAPS
THERE IS...

WE
KNOW WHAT OUR
POWERS CAN DO
IN COMBINATION!
POUR IT ON!

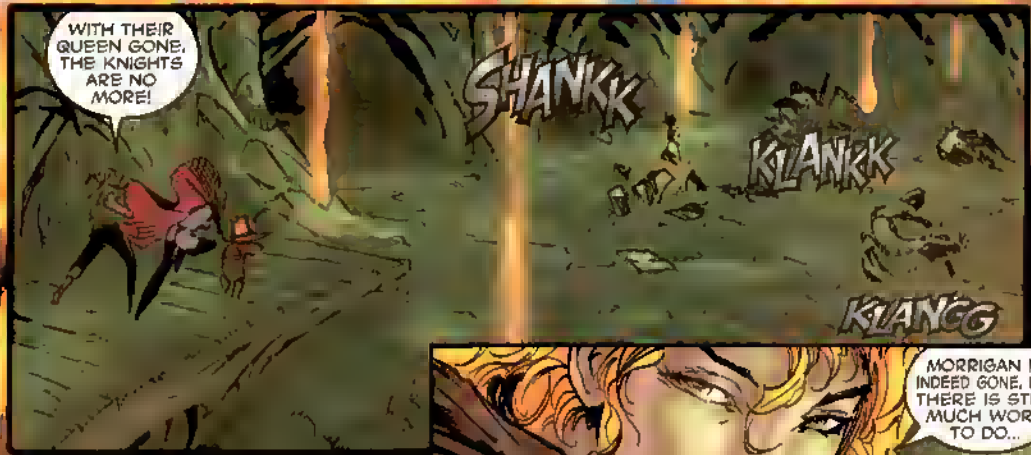
SKREEESH

BOOOO!



No.

啊啊啊啊啊!



WITH THEIR
QUEEN GONE,
THE KNIGHTS
ARE NO
MORE!

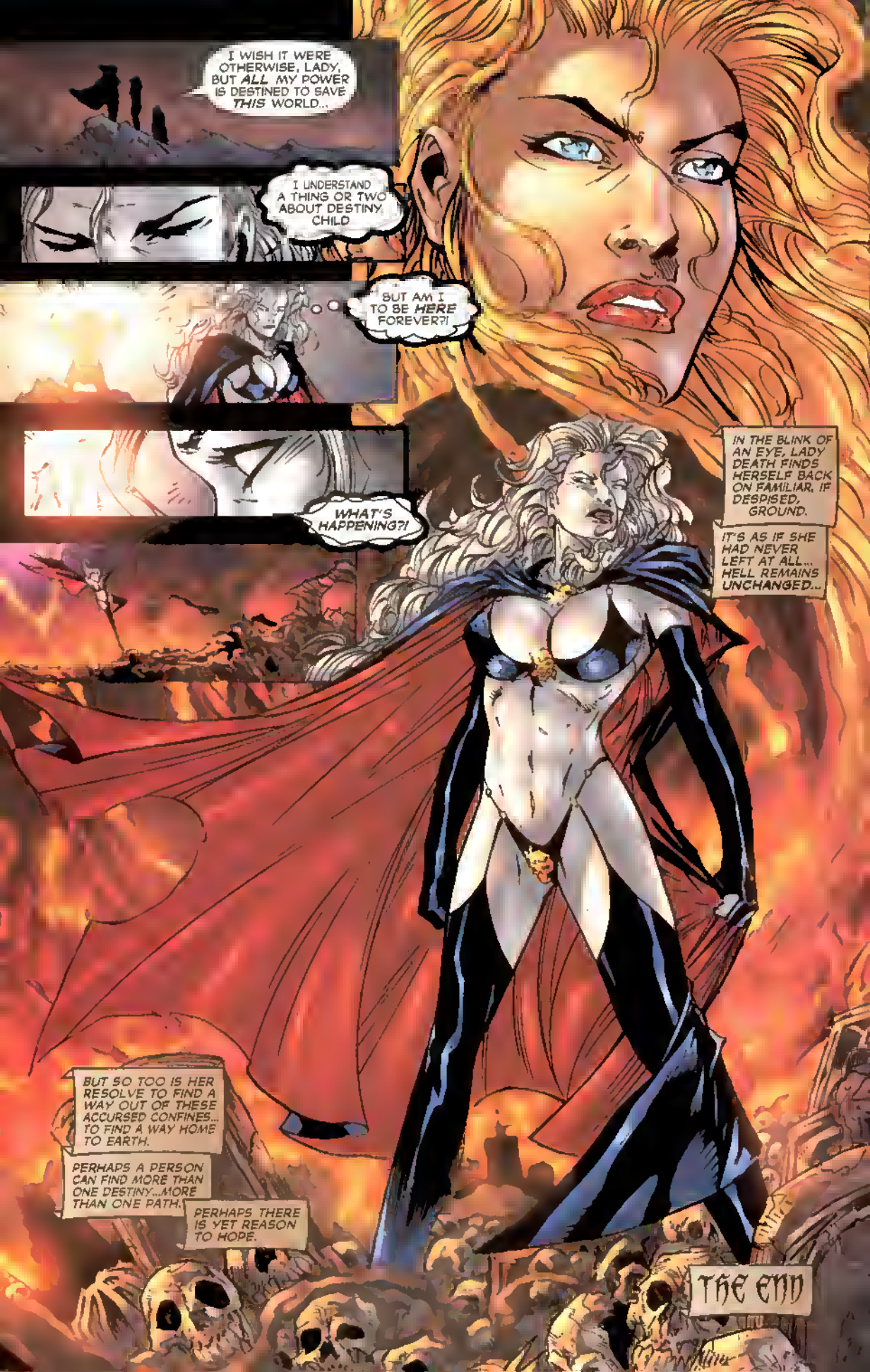
SHANKK

KLANGK

KLANGG



MORRIGAN IS
INDEED GONE, BUT
THERE IS STILL
MUCH WORK
TO DO...



I WISH IT WERE
OTHERWISE, LADY,
BUT ALL MY POWER
IS DESTINED TO SAVE
THIS WORLD...

I UNDERSTAND
A THING OR TWO
ABOUT DESTINY,
CHILD

BUT AM I
TO BE HERE
FOREVER?

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?!

IN THE BLINK OF
AN EYE, LADY
DEATH FINDS
HERSELF BACK
ON FAMILIAR, IF
DESPISED,
GROUND.

IT'S AS IF SHE
HAD NEVER
LEFT AT ALL...
HELL REMAINS
UNCHANGED...

BUT SO TOO IS HER
RESOLVE TO FIND A
WAY OUT OF THESE
ACCURSED CONFINES...
TO FIND A WAY HOME
TO EARTH.

PERHAPS A PERSON
CAN FIND MORE THAN
ONE DESTINY...MORE
THAN ONE PATH.

PERHAPS THERE
IS YET REASON
TO HOPE.

THE END